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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES**

(covering its work during 1993)

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CHAPTER X

AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, TOKELAU, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, PITCAIRN, ST. HELENA

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* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

** This document contains chapter X of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/48/23 (Part I). Other chapters of the report will be issued under the symbol A/48/23 (Parts II-V and VII-VIII). The complete report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/48/23).

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A. Introduction

1. At its 1412th meeting, on 10 February 1993, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1794), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to allocate the following 13 Territories for consideration by the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Pitcairn and St. Helena.

2. During its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee took into account the conclusions and recommendations it had adopted at its 1414th meeting, on 28 May (A/AC.109/L.1795); see also A/48/23 (Part I), chapter I, paragraphs 32-38.

3. The present chapter contains an account of the Special Committee's consideration of the 13 Territories (see sect. B), as well as its recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (see sect. D).

4. In its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/23 of 25 November 1992 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. By paragraph 12 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Committee "to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet attained independence and, in particular ... to continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence". The Committee also took into account relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly on the Territories, as well as Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

5. The delegation of New Zealand, in its capacity as administering Power concerned and in accordance with established procedures, continued to participate in the work of the Special Committee in relation to Tokelau.

6. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, administering Powers concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the Territories under their administration. 1/

B. Consideration by the Special Committee

7. The Special Committee considered the questions of the 13 Territories at its 1414th to 1418th, 1421st and 1425th to 1427th meetings, between 28 May and 27 July 1993.

8. During its consideration of the questions, the Special Committee had before it the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the Territories (A/AC.109/1137-1139, 1141-1143, 1145-1148, 1150 and 1152).

9. The Special Committee also had before it the report of the Open-ended Working Group relating to the recommendations on how to improve further the efficiency of its work in the light of recent developments (A/AC.109/L.1795). It also had before it the reports of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance containing an account of its consideration of the Territories (A/AC.109/L.1796, L.1799 and L.1800).

10. The reports of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance were based on a thorough review by the Subcommittee of the political, economic and social conditions in each of the Territories in the light of information provided by the administering Powers under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations, and contained in statements of the representative of an administering Power (New Zealand) and territorial Governments (Guam and the United States Virgin Islands) who participated in the discussions, as well as information furnished by petitioners and other sources, including regional and international organizations (see also A/AC.109/L.1796, para. 3).

11. At its 1414th meeting, on 28 May, the Special Committee considered and adopted the report of the Open-ended Working Group (A/AC.109/L.1795). The report contained a recommendation relating to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which stated that the Working Group, "taking into account the intention of the Government of Palau to hold a plebiscite on 27 July 1993 regarding the Compact of Free Association, recommends that the Committee suspend consideration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands until 1994".

12. At the 1415th meeting, on 7 July, with the Committee's consent, Ms. Lourdes Pangelinan, representative of the Governor of Guam, made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1415).

13. At the same meeting, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to Ms. Judith L. Bourne, United Nations Association of the Virgin Islands, relating to the United States Virgin Islands. At the 1418th meeting, on 13 July, Mr. Lennox Hinds, on behalf of the United Nations Association of the Virgin Islands, made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1418).

14. At the 1416th meeting, on 8 July, the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance introduced the reports of the Subcommittee on the 10 Territories (A/AC.109/L.1796), Pitcairn (A/AC.109/L.1799) and St. Helena (A/AC.109/L.1800), containing an account of the Subcommittee's consideration of the Territories (A/AC.109/PV.1416).

15. In accordance with a decision taken at the same meeting, the representative of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands participated in the work of the Special Committee in its consideration of the question of the United States Virgin Islands and made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1416).

16. At the 1417th meeting, on 12 July, the Chairman made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1417).

17. At the 1421st meeting, on 14 July, statements were made by the representatives of Sierra Leone and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.1421).

18. At its 1425th meeting, on 19 July, the Special Committee adopted the report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance on Pitcairn (A/AC.109/L.1799) and approved the draft decision contained therein (see para. 29).

19. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of the Russian Federation (A/AC.109/PV.1425), the Special Committee adopted the report of the Subcommittee relating to St. Helena (A/AC.109/L.1800) and approved the draft decision contained therein, it being understood that the reservations expressed by members would be reflected in the record of the meeting (see para. 29). The representative of the Czech Republic made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1425).

20. At the same meeting, in respect of the consolidated draft resolution relating to the 10 Territories contained in document A/AC.109/L.1796, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Fiji, Cuba, the United Republic of Tanzania and Sierra Leone, as well as by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.1425).

21. At the 1426th meeting, on 20 July, the Chairman made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1426).

22. At the 1427th meeting, on 27 July, the Chairman read out to the Special Committee oral amendments to the consolidated draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/L.1796, paragraph 7, as follows:

(a) Insert the following text as the seventh preambular paragraph of part A, general:

"Taking note of the report of the Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, held at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, from 8 to 10 June 1993, 1/ and the information provided at the Seminar by the Lieutenant-Governor of American Samoa and other participants,

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"1/ A/AC.109/1159.";

(b) Replace the existing text of operative paragraph 6 of part B, draft resolution 1 relating to American Samoa by the following:

"6. Requests additional information from the elected representatives of American Samoa, the administering Power and/or other sources to enable the Special Committee to determine its future course of action on the question of American Samoa. In this connection, the Committee expresses its firm conviction that a visiting mission to American Samoa at this stage would provide an effective means of obtaining information on developments in the Territory and ascertaining the views of the people of American Samoa with regard to their future status".

23. At the same meeting, the Special Committee took the following action on the above-mentioned oral amendments and on the consolidated draft resolution as a whole:

(a) The Committee adopted the first amendment without objection;

(b) The Committee adopted the second amendment without objection;

(c) The Committee adopted the report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance (A/AC.109/L.1796) and approved the consolidated draft resolution contained therein, as orally amended, without objection (see para. 28). Statements were made by the representatives

of Mali, Sierra Leone and the Russian Federation, as well as by the Chairman (A/AC.109/PV.1427).

24. On 21 July 1993, the texts of the decisions concerning Pitcairn (A/AC.109/1171) and St. Helena (A/AC.109/1172) were transmitted to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations for the attention of his Government.

25. On 2 August 1993, copies of the consolidated resolution (A/AC.109/1173) were transmitted to the Permanent Representative of New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States, the administering Powers concerned, for the attention of their Governments.

C. Decision of the Special Committee

26. The Special Committee, by adopting the report of the Open-ended Working Group at its 1414th meeting, on 28 May 1993, decided to defer consideration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to its 1994 session (see para. 11).

27. The texts of the decisions (A/AC.109/1171 and A/AC.109/1172) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1425th meeting, on 19 July 1993, as well as of the consolidated resolution (A/AC.109/1173), adopted at its 1427th meeting, on 27 July 1993 (see paras. 28 and 29), appear under section D, in the form of recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

D. Recommendations of the Special Committee

28. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1412th and 1417th meetings, on 10 February and 12 July 1993, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

CONSOLIDATED DRAFT RESOLUTION

Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands

A

GENERAL

The General Assembly,

Having considered the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands,

Having examined the relevant chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, 2/

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, those resolutions adopted by the General

Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

Recalling also its resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, containing the principles which should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations,

Conscious of the need to ensure the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of those Territories, in view of the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the necessity of promoting economic stability and diversifying and strengthening further the economies of the respective Territories as a matter of priority,

Taking note of the report of the Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, held at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, from 8 to 10 June 1993, 3/ and the information provided at the Seminar by the Lieutenant-Governor of American Samoa and other participants,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Aware of the usefulness both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide a means of ascertaining the situation in the small Territories, and considering that the possibility of sending further visiting missions to those Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers should be kept under review,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, as well as regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank,

Bearing in mind the fragile economy of the small Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental degradation, and recalling General Assembly resolutions and the recommendations of the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations, held in New York from 25 to 29 June 1990, 4/

Recalling the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations regional seminar on decolonization held in 1992 in connection with the Plan of Action of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, as well as the position taken by the territorial Governments contained in the report of the seminar, 5/

1. Approves the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands; 2/

2. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of those Territories to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

3. Reaffirms also that it is ultimately for the people of those Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and, in that connection, calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments, to facilitate programmes of political education in the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination, in conformity with the legitimate political status options clearly defined in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV);

4. Reiterates that it is the responsibility of the administering Powers to create such conditions in the Territories as will enable their people to exercise freely and without interference their inalienable right to self-determination and independence;

5. Requests the administering Powers to encourage and to facilitate the participation of elected representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration and other appropriate authorities or personalities duly mandated by those representatives in the work of the Special Committee, its Working Group and its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, as well as in the work of the Committee's seminars;

6. Reiterates the view that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way serve as a pretext to delay the speedy exercise by the peoples of those Territories of their inalienable right to self-determination;

7. Reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of those Territories, and recommends that priority should continue to be given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

8. Urges the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments concerned, to take or continue to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the peoples of those Territories to own, develop or dispose of the natural resources of those Territories, including marine resources, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources;

9. Also urges the administering Powers to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories under their administration against any environmental degradation, and requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in those Territories;

10. Calls upon the administering Powers to continue to take all necessary measures, in cooperation with the respective territorial Governments, to counter problems related to drug trafficking;

11. Urges the administering Powers to foster or continue to foster close relations between the Territories and other island communities in their

respective regions, and to promote cooperation between the respective territorial Governments and regional institutions, as well as the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system;

12. Also urges the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in its work by providing timely and up-to-date information for each Territory under their administration, in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter, and by facilitating the dispatch of visiting missions to the Territories to secure firsthand information thereon and to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of the inhabitants;

13. Appeals to the administering Powers to continue or to resume their participation in future meetings and activities of the Special Committee and to ensure the participation in the work of the Special Committee of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

14. Urges Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to achieve the eradication of colonialism by the year 2000, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the action of the Special Committee towards the attainment of that objective;

15. Invites the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to initiate or to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life of the Territories;

16. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in formulating their assistance programmes, to take due account of the text entitled "Challenges and opportunities: a strategic framework", which was adopted unanimously by the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Organizations; 4/

17. Requests the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the small Territories and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

B

INDIVIDUAL TERRITORIES

1. American Samoa

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

[Having heard the statement of the representative of the United States of America, as the administering Power,]

Noting that efforts are currently aimed at increasing the production of food crops for local consumption,

Taking note of the announcement by the Governor that his administration was planning to lay off over one thousand public employees, including some four hundred permanent career civil servants,

Noting that American Samoa is the only United States Territory in which employers are allowed to pay workers less than the mainland minimum wage,

Aware that one third of the population is dependent on village-based water systems which often lack basic sanitary conditions,

Noting also the devastation caused by hurricane Val in December 1991 and the recovery efforts of the territorial Government in conjunction with the administering Power and the international community,

Recalling the dispatch in 1981 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

1. Calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with relevant regional and international institutions, to assist the Territory in increasing its agricultural output;

2. Urges the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to facilitate the employment by the private sector of those public employees who will have lost their jobs as a result of the planned lay-offs;

3. Also urges the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to ensure that the salaries paid to employees are on a par with the cost of living in the Territory;

4. Requests the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to extend to the whole population of the Territory adequate water services with appropriate sanitary conditions and, in this framework, to study the feasibility of making the Government's central water system available to all;

5. Calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to promote the economic and social development of the Territory in order to reduce its heavy economic and financial dependence on the United States of America;

6. Requests additional information from the elected representatives of American Samoa, the administering Power and/or other sources to enable the Special Committee to determine its future course of action on the question of American Samoa, and in this connection, expresses its firm conviction that a visiting mission to American Samoa at this stage would provide an effective means of obtaining information on developments in the Territory and ascertaining the views of the people of American Samoa with regard to their future status.

II. Anguilla

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

[Having heard the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power,]

Noting the decision of the administering Power to effect a policy change aimed at enhancing its relations with its Caribbean dependent Territories,

Aware that the educational system in Anguilla is facing severe problems, including overcrowding, insufficient equipment and supplies in the schools, as well as a high percentage of untrained teachers and the loss of teachers to the private sector and to other parts of the civil service,

Aware also of the inability of Anguilla's educational system to alleviate the problem of scarcity of skilled national personnel, particularly in the fields of economic management and tourism, and that educational reform is of paramount importance to the achievement of the long-term economic goals of the Territory,

Noting that the Government is placing great emphasis on manpower development and training,

Further noting that the Government's Public Sector Investment Programme for 1991-1995 is expected to be financed by external donors through grants and concessional loans,

Aware that the exploitation of deep-sea resources would help to reduce the risk of depleting the Territory's own fishing resources as a result of overfishing,

Recalling the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory in 1984,

1. Takes note of the efforts of the administering Power aimed at improving its relations with its dependent Territories of the Caribbean;

2. Requests the administering Power, in considering, adopting and/or implementing policy decisions likely to affect its dependent Territories, to continue to grant the highest attention to the interests, needs and wishes of the territorial Government and the people of Anguilla;

3. Calls upon national, regional and international institutions specializing in the field of education to grant Anguilla funds and equipment, and to make available to the Territory teacher training courses, to enable it to overcome its educational problems;

4. Further calls upon all countries, institutions and organizations endowed with expertise in manpower training to grant Anguilla assistance in this field;

5. Invites the international donor community to contribute generously to the Government's Public Sector Investment Programme for 1991-1995, and to grant the Territory all possible assistance to enable it to reach the main development objectives established by the Executive Council of the Territory;

6. Requests all countries and organizations with deep-sea fishing experience to facilitate the acquisition by the Territory's fishing sector of larger boats and of ad hoc fishing equipment, and to provide the Territory's fishermen with deep-sea fishing training programmes;

7. Notes that a period of nine years has elapsed since a United Nations mission visited the Territory and calls upon the administering Power to facilitate the dispatch of a further visiting mission to Anguilla.

III. Bermuda

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

[Having heard the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power,]

Noting the negative effects of the international recession on the economy of Bermuda,

Taking note of the recent review of the criminal justice system in the Territory,

Noting with concern the incidence of crime in the secondary schools and noting also the planned restructuring of the public school system,

Reaffirming its strong conviction that the presence of military bases and installations in the Territory could, in certain circumstances, constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Noting that the Territory has never been visited by a United Nations visiting mission,

1. Reaffirms its view that it is ultimately for the people of Bermuda to decide their own future;

2. Requests the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in its efforts to mitigate the effects of the world recession, particularly in the domains of tourism and international business;

3. Calls upon the administering Power to ensure that the criminal justice system is fair to all inhabitants of the Territory;

4. Also calls upon the administering Power to ensure that the planned restructuring of the public school system is not prejudicial to the economically less advantaged sectors of the population;

5. Further calls upon the administering Power to ensure that the presence of military bases and installations in the Territory would not constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples nor hinder the population of the Territory from exercising its right to self-determination and independence in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

6. Again calls upon the administering Power to facilitate the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory.

IV. British Virgin Islands

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

[Having heard the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power,]

Noting the request of the Territory for a review of its Constitution,

Further noting the statements made by the Chief Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and members of the public of the Territory concerning the review by the administering Power of its policy towards, and management of, its Caribbean dependent Territories,

Aware of the impact of the global economic recession on the economy of the British Virgin Islands,

Noting the measures taken by the territorial Government to develop the agricultural, industrial, educational and communications sectors,

Taking note of the desire of the Territory for membership in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Noting that, according to the Caribbean Development Bank, the Territory's unmet manpower requirements continue to be a critical constraint to its economic growth,

Recognizing the measures being taken by the territorial Government to prevent drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. Requests the administering Power to take into account any views or wishes which may be expressed by the territorial Government and the people of the Territory in connection with the constitutional review;

2. Also requests the administering Power, in implementing its review of policy towards, and management of, its Caribbean dependent Territories, to give the highest consideration to the opinions expressed by the Government and the people of the Territory;

3. Further requests the administering Power and all financial institutions to grant the Territory economic assistance, including concessionary funding, to enable it to mitigate the effects of the international economic recession and to pursue its development programmes;

4. Reiterates its call upon the administering Power to facilitate the admission of the Territory to associate membership in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as its participation in other regional and international organizations;

5. Calls upon the United Nations Development Programme to continue its technical assistance to the British Virgin Islands, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Territory to external economic factors and the scarcity of skilled workers in the Territory;

6. Also calls upon all countries and organizations with expertise in the development of skilled labour to grant the territorial Government every

assistance in the implementation of its educational and manpower training programmes;

7. Notes with satisfaction the measures being taken by the territorial Government to prevent drug trafficking and money laundering, and urges the administering Power to continue its assistance to the Territory in those endeavours;

8. Notes with regret that a period of seventeen years has elapsed since a United Nations mission visited the Territory and appeals to the administering Power to facilitate the dispatch of such a mission.

V. Cayman Islands

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

[Having heard the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power,]

Noting the action taken by the territorial Government to implement its localization programme to promote increased participation of the local population in the decision-making process in the Cayman Islands,

Further noting that an increased proportion of the labour force of the Territory consists of expatriates and that there is a need for the training of nationals in the technical, vocational, managerial and professional fields,

Aware that the general election of November 1992 in the Territory resulted in the naming of a new Government,

Conscious of the economic priorities recommended by the new Government, namely, to reduce spending, balance the budget, slow down growth to manageable levels and increase tourism,

Noting the Territory's dependence on imported agricultural provisions,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the territorial Government, the Governments of other countries of the region and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power, to prevent and repress illicit activities such as money laundering, funds smuggling, false invoicing and other related frauds, as well as the use of and trafficking in illegal drugs,

Recalling the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

1. Takes note of the change of government in the Territory as a result of the election of November 1992;

2. Notes that, according to election officials, more than 90 per cent of the Territory's registered voters participated in that election;

3. Urges the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to facilitate the expansion of the current programme of securing employment for the local population, in particular at the decision-making level;

4. Requests the administering Power to assist the new territorial Government in acquiring all required expertise to enable it to achieve its economic aims;

5. Calls upon the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to promote the agricultural development of the Cayman Islands;

6. Requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue and increase their programmes of assistance to the Territory with a view to strengthening, developing and diversifying its economy;

7. Calls upon the administering Power to continue to take all necessary measures, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to counter problems related to money laundering, funds smuggling and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

8. Notes the importance of sending United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and the fact that a period of sixteen years has elapsed since the last mission was dispatched to the Territory.

VI. Guam

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

[Having heard the statement of the representative of the United States of America, as the administering Power,]

Recalling the rounds of negotiations between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Guam aimed at transferring land and facilities at the Agana Naval Air Station,

Aware that large tracts of land in the Territory continue to be reserved for the use of the Department of Defense of the administering Power,

Cognizant that the administering Power has undertaken a programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Cognizant also of the potential for diversifying and developing the economy of Guam through commercial fishing and agriculture,

Conscious that immigration into the Territory has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland and that, in 1990, 50 per cent of the residents were not born in the Territory,

Mindful that discussions between the Guam Commission on Self-Determination and the executive branch of the administering Power on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act concluded at the end of the previous administration of the administering Power, and that the Guam Commission on Self-Determination has

requested the new Administration to appoint a special representative of the President to lead the administering Power's review of the Guam Commonwealth Act,

Recalling that in referendums held in Guam in 1987, a draft Commonwealth Act was endorsed by the people of Guam that, upon expeditious enactment by the Congress of the United States of America, would reaffirm the right of the people of Guam to draft their own constitution and to govern themselves,

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

1. Calls upon the administering Power to continue to ensure that the presence of military bases and installations in the Territory should not constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples nor hinder the population of the Territory from exercising its right to self-determination, including independence, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

2. Also calls upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to expedite the transfer of land to the people of the Territory and to take the necessary steps to safeguard their property rights;

3. Notes that discussions held since 1990 between the Government of the United States of America and the Guam Commission on Self-Determination have resulted in qualified agreements on the provisions of the Guam Commonwealth Act, including agreements to disagree on several substantive portions of the Guam proposal, and that the new Administration of the administering Power has been requested by Guam to conduct expeditiously its review of the Guam Commonwealth Act in concert with the Guam Commission on Self-Determination;

4. Requests the administering Power to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the immigration issue;

5. Reiterates its request to the administering Power to continue to recognize and respect the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people, the indigenous inhabitants of Guam;

6. Urges the administering Power to continue to support appropriate measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting growth in commercial fishing and agriculture;

7. Notes that a period of fourteen years has elapsed since a United Nations mission visited the Territory and again calls upon the administering Power to facilitate the dispatch of such a mission.

VII. Montserrat

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

[Having heard the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power,]

Aware of the decision of the administering Power to implement a policy change aimed at establishing better dialogue, coordination and cooperation between itself and its Caribbean dependent Territories,

Taking note of the position of the territorial Government that while independence is both desirable and inevitable, it should be preceded by economic and financial viability sufficient to sustain Montserrat as an independent State,

Expressing concern at the high incidence of drug trafficking and money laundering in the Territory,

Taking into account the membership of Montserrat in regional and international bodies and the outstanding request of the Territory for readmission to associate membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Aware of the Government's policy to continue to train and develop local human resources,

Recalling that the last United Nations visiting mission to the Territory took place in 1982,

1. Calls upon the administering Power to consider all suggestions made by the Territories concerned within the framework of its review of policy and management of the Caribbean dependent Territories, as well as in the context of any future policy changes affecting them;

2. Requests the administering Power to work towards promoting the economic and social development of the Territory with a view to its attaining self-determination and independence;

3. Notes the Government's expressed preference for independence within a political union with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States;

4. Requests the administering Power, competent regional and international organizations, as well as countries in a position to do so, to grant the Government of Montserrat every assistance it requires to achieve its stated goal of improving the efficiency and productivity of the public service through training at all levels;

5. Reiterates its call upon the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to take, as a matter of urgency, the necessary steps to facilitate the readmission of Montserrat as an associate member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

6. Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and other multilateral financial institutions, to continue to expand their assistance to the Territory in the strengthening, development and diversification of the economy of Montserrat in accordance with its medium- and long-term development plans;

7. Urges the administering Power to continue its assistance to the Territory in the prevention of drug trafficking and money laundering;

8. Notes with regret that a period of eleven years has elapsed since a United Nations mission visited the Territory and calls upon the administering Power to facilitate the dispatch of a visiting mission to Montserrat.

VIII. Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

Having heard the statement of the representative of New Zealand, the administering Power,

Noting the continuing devolution of power to the local authority, the General Fono (Council), and mindful that the cultural heritage and traditions of the people of Tokelau should be taken fully into account in the evolution of the political institutions of Tokelau,

Noting also the continuing commitment of New Zealand to assist Tokelau in attaining a greater degree of self-government and economic self-sufficiency, and its stated intention to be guided in this regard by the wishes of the Tokelauan people,

Taking note of the plans to transfer the Office for Tokelau Affairs from Apia to Tokelau,

Noting the Territory's continuing efforts to strengthen the role of its local institutions and to assume more responsibility for its own affairs, while reaffirming its desire to retain its special relationship with New Zealand,

Noting also the endeavours of Tokelau to develop its marine and other resources and its efforts to diversify the income-earning ability of its population,

Noting further the concern of the people of the Territory regarding the serious consequences of changes in climatic patterns on the future of Tokelau,

Noting with appreciation the assistance extended to Tokelau by the administering Power, other Member States and specialized agencies, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and its setting up of a third country programme for Tokelau for the period 1992-1996,

1. Encourages the Government of New Zealand, the administering Power, to continue to respect fully the wishes of the people of Tokelau in carrying out the political and economic development of the Territory in such a way as to preserve their social, cultural and traditional heritage and to seek solutions which would meet the unique future needs of Tokelau;

2. Takes note with satisfaction of the agreement to continue the process of transferring to Tokelau the responsibility for administration of the Territory, and of the decision by Tokelau to establish a Council of Faipule (joint chairmen of the General Fono) to provide ongoing government for the Territory between sessions of the General Fono;

3. Requests the administering Power to take all necessary measures to facilitate the exercise by the Territory of its political and administrative functions and, in this regard, takes note of the plans to transfer the Office for Tokelau Affairs from Apia to Tokelau;

4. Invites all governmental and non-governmental organizations, financial institutions, Member States and specialized agencies to grant or continue to grant Tokelau special emergency economic assistance to mitigate the effects of cyclonic storms and to enable the Territory to meet its medium- and long-term

reconstruction and rehabilitation requirements and address the issues of changes in climatic patterns;

5. Welcomes the invitation of the administering Power to the Special Committee to dispatch a visiting mission to Tokelau in 1994.

IX. Turks and Caicos Islands

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

[Having heard the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the administering Power,]

Noting the different views expressed by the elected representatives of the Turks and Caicos Islands on the question of the future status of the Territory,

Aware of the decision of the administering Power to implement a policy change aimed at establishing better dialogue, coordination and cooperation between itself and its Caribbean dependent Territories,

Taking note of the territorial Government's commitment to reform the public service to achieve greater efficiency and to implement its policy of localization of employment,

Noting the Government's expressed need for development assistance to achieve its stated goal of economic independence by the year 1996,

Noting also the Government's decision to establish an investment bank in order to attract substantial investments world wide for much-needed projects,

Noting further that 90 per cent of the food consumed in the Territory is imported, and that the Government has exerted efforts to improve the agricultural and fisheries sectors,

Noting the number of unqualified teachers and the number of expatriate staff in the educational system of the Territory,

Noting with interest the statement made and the information provided by an elected member of the Territory's Legislative Council in March 1993 to the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance on the overall political, economic and social situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands,

1. Reiterates that it is ultimately for the people of the Territory themselves to determine their own future through the exercise of their right to self-determination, including independence;

2. Invites the administering Power, in implementing policy changes concerning its dependent Territories, to continue to take fully into account the wishes and interests of the Government and people of the Turks and Caicos Islands;

3. Calls upon the territorial Government to continue to promote alternative employment opportunities for those civil servants whose employment will be terminated as a result of the public service reform and the planned reduction of employees in the service;

4. Also calls upon the Government to ensure that the employment of expatriates in the Territory's labour force is not prejudicial to the recruitment of suitably qualified and available islanders;

5. Calls upon the specialized agencies and other institutions of the United Nations system to explore concrete ways of assisting the Turks and Caicos Government to reach its stated goal of achieving economic independence by 1996;

6. Notes with satisfaction the increase in aid, particularly financial assistance, granted to the territorial Government by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and invites that Government to maintain this level of assistance;

7. Calls upon all national, regional, interregional and international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to take all necessary steps to assist the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the establishment and/or operation of its investment bank;

8. Urges the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to assist the territorial Government in increasing the efficiency of the agricultural and fisheries sectors;

9. Also urges the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the problem of environmental pollution and degradation;

10. Calls upon all countries and organizations with experience in the training of teachers to extend generous assistance to the Territory in this field, with particular emphasis on the training of its nationals;

11. Draws the attention of the administering Power to the statement made and the information provided in March 1993 to the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance by an elected member of the Territory's Legislative Council on the political, economic and social situation in the Territory;

12. Notes with regret that a period of thirteen years has elapsed since a United Nations mission visited the Territory and appeals to the administering Power to facilitate the dispatch of such a mission.

X. United States Virgin Islands

The General Assembly,

Referring to resolution A above,

[Having heard the statement of the representative of the United States of America, as the administering Power,]

Noting that steps have been taken to hold a referendum on political status in the Territory in September 1993,

Noting also the concerns expressed in the Territory on the issues of residency requirements for voter eligibility and the availability to all voters of full information on the political options offered to them in the referendum and the implications of these options,

Noting further that the Governor, in his State of the Territory address in January 1993, mentioned the necessity to diversify the Territory's economy further,

Aware that the insurance crisis in the United States Virgin Islands affects home-owners and has an adverse impact on the Territory's real estate market,

Noting that the question of the transfer of Water Island to the Territory is still under consideration,

Noting also the steps taken by the territorial authorities to acquire the St. Thomas Harbour, including the West Indian Company,

Noting further the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and observer status in the Caribbean Community, and its inability, for financial reasons, to participate in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization,

Recalling the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory and the outstanding request by the territorial Government for the dispatch of a United Nations mission to the Territory to observe the referendum process,

1. Notes the consultative character of the referendum to be held in September 1993;

2. Notes also the concerns raised in the Territory, prior to the referendum, on the questions of residency requirements and the availability of information on this political process;

3. Requests the administering Power to assist the territorial Government in its efforts to attract light manufacturing and other enterprises to the Territory in order to diversify its economy;

4. Also requests the administering Power to take all possible measures to encourage insurance companies to return to the Territory and to grant home-owners and real estate purchasers affordable premium rates;

5. Invites the administering Power, as a matter of urgency, to facilitate the transfer of Water Island to the territorial Government;

6. Urges all financial organizations of the international community to grant the Government of the United States Virgin Islands every possible assistance in its efforts to acquire the St. Thomas Harbour and the West Indian Company;

7. Reiterates its request to the administering Power to facilitate as appropriate the participation of the Territory in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Community, as well as in various international and regional organizations, including the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development of the World Bank, in accordance with the policy of the administering Power and the terms of reference of such organizations;

8. Calls upon the administering Power to respond favourably to the request of the territorial Government for the dispatch of a United Nations visiting and observer mission to the Territory.

29. The Special Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Question of Pitcairn

The General Assembly, having examined the situation in Pitcairn, reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Pitcairn to self-determination in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which fully applies to the Territory. The Assembly further reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Power to promote the economic and social development of the Territory. The Assembly urges the administering Power to continue to respect the very individual lifestyle that the people of the Territory have chosen and to preserve, promote and protect it. The Special Committee decides to continue to examine the question of Pitcairn at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

DRAFT DECISION II

Question of St. Helena

1. The General Assembly, having examined the question of St. Helena, reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of St. Helena to self-determination and independence in conformity with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. The Assembly urges the administering Power, in consultation with the Legislative Council and other representatives of the people of St. Helena, to continue to take all necessary steps to ensure the speedy implementation of the Declaration in respect of the Territory and, in that connection, reaffirms the importance of promoting an awareness among the people of St. Helena of the possibilities open to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination.

2. The General Assembly reaffirms the responsibility of the administering Power to promote the economic and social development of the Territory and calls upon the administering Power to continue, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to strengthen the economy, to encourage local initiative and enterprise and to increase its assistance to diversification programmes with the aim of improving the general welfare of the community, including the employment situation in the Territory.

3. The General Assembly urges the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to take effective measures to safeguard and guarantee the inalienable right of the people of St. Helena to own and dispose of the natural resources of the Territory, including marine resources, and to establish and maintain control over the future development of those resources.

4. The General Assembly reaffirms that continued development assistance from the administering Power, together with any assistance that the international community might be able to provide, constitutes an important means of developing the economic potential of the Territory and of enhancing the capacity of its people to realize fully the goals set forth in the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. The Assembly, in that connection, welcomes the assistance rendered by the United Nations Development

Programme and invites other organizations of the United Nations system to assist in the development of the Territory.

5. The continued presence of military facilities in the Territory prompts the General Assembly, on the basis of previous United Nations resolutions and decisions concerning military bases and installations in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories, to urge the administering Power to take measures to avoid the involvement of the Territory in offensive acts of interference against neighbouring States.

6. The General Assembly considers that the possibility of dispatching a United Nations visiting mission to St. Helena at an appropriate time should be kept under review, and requests the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of St. Helena at its next session, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77, and A/47/86.

2/ The present chapter.

3/ A/AC.109/1159.

4/ A/CONF.147/5-TD/B/AC.46/4.

5/ See A/AC.109/1114.

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Item 18 of the provisional agenda*

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES**

(covering its work during 1993)

Rapporteur: Mr. Farouk AL-ATTAR (Syrian Arab Republic)

CHAPTER XI

NEW CALEDONIA

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* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

** This document contains chapter XI of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/48/23 (Part I). Other chapters of the report will be issued under the symbol A/48/23 (Parts II-VI and VIII). The complete report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/48/23).

CHAPTER XI

NEW CALEDONIA

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1412th meeting, on 10 February 1993, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1794), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the question of New Caledonia as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1426th and 1428th meetings, between 20 July and 12 August 1993.

3. At its 1426th meeting, on 20 July, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to Mr. Yuan Céléne Uregei of the Congrés populaire. At the same meeting, Mr. Uregei made a statement and replied to questions put to him by the representative of Mali and by the Chairman (see A/AC.109/PV.1426).

4. At the 1428th meeting, on 12 August, the Chairman drew attention to a draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea (A/AC.109/L.1809).

5. Also at the 1428th meeting, the representative of Fiji made a statement in the course of which he introduced, on behalf also of Papua New Guinea, draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1809 (see A/AC.109/PV.1428). The representative of Papua New Guinea also made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1428).

6. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1809 without a vote.

7. On 18 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1174) was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of France for the attention of his Government.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

8. The text of the resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1428th meeting (see para. 6) is reproduced in section C below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.

C. Recommendation of the Special Committee

Draft resolution: Question of New Caledonia

9. In accordance with decisions taken at its 1412th and 1417th meetings, on 10 February and 12 July 1993, respectively, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of New Caledonia,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to New Caledonia, 1/

Reaffirming the right of peoples to self-determination as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population, to promote political, economic and social development in the Territory, including measures in the area of environmental protection and action with respect to drug abuse and trafficking, in order to provide a framework for its peaceful progress to self-determination,

Noting also, in this context, the importance of equitable economic and social development, as well as continued dialogue among the parties involved in New Caledonia in the preparation of the act of self-determination of New Caledonia,

Welcoming the positive outcome of the mid-term review of the Matignon Accords in February 1993 and the continuing support for the process by the new French Government,

Noting the holding of the Pacific Regional Seminar on decolonization at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, from 8 to 10 June 1993,

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of contacts between New Caledonia and neighbouring countries of the South Pacific region,

1. Urges all the parties involved, in the interest of all the people of New Caledonia and building on the positive outcome of the mid-term review of the Matignon Accords, to maintain their dialogue in a spirit of harmony;

2. Invites all the parties involved to continue promoting a framework for the peaceful progress of the Territory towards an act of self-determination in which all options are open and which would safeguard the rights of all New Caledonians according to the letter and the spirit of the Matignon Accords, which are based on the principle that it is for the populations of New Caledonia to choose how to control their destiny;

3. Welcomes recent and foreshadowed measures to strengthen and diversify the New Caledonian economy in all fields;

4. Also welcomes calls by the parties to the Matignon Accords for greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia;

5. Commends the decision to establish a Melanesian cultural centre as a contribution to preserving the indigenous culture of New Caledonia;

6. Takes note of the recent positive initiatives aimed at protecting New Caledonia's natural environment, notably the "Zoneco" operation designed to map and evaluate marine resources within the economic zone of New Caledonia;

7. Acknowledges the close links between New Caledonia and the peoples of the South Pacific and the positive actions being taken by the French authorities to facilitate the further development of those links, including the development of closer relations with the member countries of the South Pacific Forum;

8. Welcomes in particular, in this regard, recent high-level visits to New Caledonia by delegations from countries of the Pacific region;

9. Requests the Special Committee to continue the examination of this question at its next session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

Notes

1/ The present chapter.